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TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
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1.	3F30 Headquarters				<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>This is the Post article on Cam Ranh Bay that Representative Skelton would like us to look at. Do we have anything to tell him that we have not already said?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 180px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> <p style="text-align: center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em; margin: 20px 0;"><i>Rep Skelton</i></p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 100px;">STAT</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 100px;">STAT</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 100px;">STAT</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 100px;">STAT</p>
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I thought you
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from: **Ike Skelton**
Member of Congress

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RUSSIA'S USE OF CAM RANH BAY IN VIETNAM AS SUBMARINE BASE

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, the recent newspaper article (Washington Post, May 10, 1979) reporting the Soviet use of Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay as a submarine base is most disturbing. Cam Ranh Bay, you remember, is the deep-water port that the Americans built into a modern and well equipped harbor for our use during the Vietnam conflict. The spy satellite pictures that confirm Russian subs using the port is an indication that the Soviets are widening their use of Vietnam as a military base. This fact is disturbing to us, as well as to other nations, including Japan. Cam Ranh Bay is a logical stopover point for Russian subs traveling to the Indian Ocean from the

major U.S.S.R. submarine base at Vladivostok.

You will recall that in August of last year, I was one of eight Members of Congress who went to Vietnam concerning the POW and MIA issues. While there, we had extensive talks with leaders of the Vietnamese Government. Being concerned about the possible military use of Cam Ranh Bay, several of us asked questions about the use of this port by Russia. We were told emphatically that there was no Soviet use of Cam Ranh Bay whatsoever. When we asked if some of us could go there and observe it, permission was refused, being told that the Russians were not using it, and that "it is a matter of trust." I well remember then being told that it was their intention to not be dominated by Russia, China, or any other nation, but that they intended to remain an "independent and sovereign" country. We were also told that if they did not need a Soviet base in Vietnam "during the war with the United States," they certainly did not "need one now." Our committee report, submitted by Chairman G. V. MONTGOMERY and the delegation stated as follows:

FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN VIETNAM

The committee closely questioned the Vietnamese officials as to whether there are Soviet bases at Haiphong and Cam Ranh Bay. The officials replied directly and emphatically that there are no Soviet bases at Cam Ranh Bay or elsewhere in Vietnam and that there are no plans for any in the future. They pointed out that at no time had they permitted foreign bases in their territory during the period of the war and that now the war is over and they have their independence and have weapons, there is no need to have such foreign bases in their territory.

The committee requested to go to Cam Ranh Bay but were not permitted to do so. However, from reliable sources it seems that Russian forces have not occupied Cam Ranh or Haiphong.

Two questions arise now, in light of the findings of the American spy satellite:

First, Did the Vietnamese leaders mislead us about Cam Ranh Bay when they said the Soviets were not using it? or

Second, Why has Vietnam changed its policy by allowing Russian submarines to use this deepwater port?

Would those of us who wanted to go to Cam Ranh Bay have seen something that the Vietnamese did not want us to see? Would we have encountered Russians? Would we have seen construction and other preparation for use of the base by Soviet subs?

Mr. Speaker, we Americans should be concerned over this report. We should be concerned because it shows that either the Vietnamese Government misled us Congressmen, or that the Vietnamese Government has changed its policy of not allowing foreign countries, such as Russia, to have military bases there. In either case, the matter is most serious.

With the SALT agreement with Russia imminent, we should see an example of restraint by the U.S.S.R. of its bulging military expansion—but we see continued and new growth now in Southeast Asia. During this time, our eyes are mostly focused on Russia's military capability in Europe, but we must now look

closer to Russia's capability in the Far East, as it concerns us. Soviet submarines can now, by operating out of Cam Ranh Bay, easily shadow American ships and aircraft carriers in the Indian Ocean. This also poses a most serious threat to Japan's Mideast oil lifeline, which delivers most of the oil needed by that country.

In my opinion, the recent uncovering of Russia using Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay as a sub base is a major discovery that cannot and should not be overlooked by this country, by this Congress, or by our President. Its significance shows, at the very least, an about-face of the Vietnamese Government allowing a foreign base to be established for the first time. It also shows Russia's intentions to push its military presence on all fronts.

Mr. Speaker, we should be concerned.

At least one diesel-powered submarine of the Soviets' Foxtrot class, such as the one shown above, has been photographed sailing in and out of Cam Ranh Bay.

Soviet Use of Base Stirs Concern

SUBMARINES, From A1

would threaten Japan's lifeline, is sure to heighten Japanese fears about the growing Russian military presence in Asia.

Sources said it is too early to predict how Soviet submarines will use Cam Ranh Bay. One theory is that it will become a stopover point for changing crews and resupplying the submarines in trips between Vladivostok, a major port for the Soviet Pacific fleet, and the Indian Ocean.

The Indian Ocean is growing in strategic significance because it is the access route to the oil-rich Persian Gulf. The U.S. and Soviet navies have been rotating task forces in and out of the Indian Ocean lately.

One likely mission of the Foxtrot submarine, once it reaches the Indian Ocean, is to shadow the American aircraft carrier sailing with the U.S. naval task force.

U.S. Navy strategists have long regarded Vladivostok, on the Sea of Japan, as a port they could

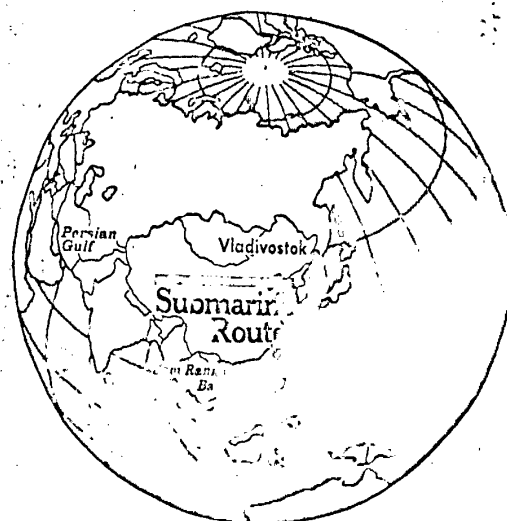
bottle up easily if war came. But Cam Ranh Bay as a major Soviet military port would raise a whole new set of problems, according to Navy leaders.

Last month, the Japanese government went public with its suspicions that Soviet TU95D Bear Bombers equipped for reconnaissance were flying in and out of Vietnam. Two Bears were spotted on the ground at Da Nang airfield, a major base for U.S. warplanes during the Vietnam war.

Earlier, U.S. intelligence had reported that the Soviets were increasing the number of surface ships stationed off Vietnam and using Cam Ranh Bay as a port.

The enlarged Soviet presence in Vietnam may be designed to scare off China or at least signal the world that Moscow intends to stand by Hanoi in its conflicts with Peking.

The United States has no legal right to object to Soviet use of Vietnamese territory, military leaders concede, but the presence is infuriating to some U.S. officers in light of all the American blood and treasure spent there during the Vietnam war.



By Richard Furno—The Washington Post

Prospective route of Soviet submarines.

Vietnam is also shaping up as a launching site for reconnaissance missions flown by Soviet TU95 Bear Bombers, such as the one shown above.

Soviet Use of Cam Ranh Bay as Sub Base Arouse

By George C. Wilson

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Soviet Union has started to use the Vietnamese port of Cam Ranh Bay, on which the United States spent \$2 billion during the Indochina war, for its submarines, government sources revealed yesterday.

American spy satellites recently photographed at least one Soviet Foxtrot submarine sailing in and out of Cam Ranh, sources said. U.S. Navy leaders believe this additional Soviet presence in Vietnam is highly significant.

Not only is Vietnam shaping up as a launching site for Soviet reconnaissance missions by TU95 Bear bombers and surface ships, in the view of Navy intelligence, but it also is becoming a stopover point for submarines, on their way to and from the Indian Ocean.

The Foxtrot, a diesel attack sub designed to sink ships or other subs with its 22 torpedoes as distinguished from firing missiles against land targets, is not in itself considered a major threat. It is the widening Soviet

use of Vietnam as a military base that worries U.S. intelligence.

Vietnam watchers at the Pentagon are reporting a heavy step up of Soviet shipments of goods into Vietnam this year, much heavier than in 1978. Some specialists theorize that Ho Chi Minh's successors, running Vietnam, are trading, passing rights to the Soviet for manufactured goods.

Thanks to U.S. efforts during the Indochina war, Vietnam has superb military facilities for a superpower, such as the Soviet Union. The airfields at Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh

City, formerly Saigon, a water port of Cam Ranh ready-made for long-range ships and submarines.

The United States spent improving Cam Ranh during the Vietnam war, according to estimate. The Soviets are heriting everything, the barracks and mess, and sub crews.

Although American are fretting about the long use of Vietnam, the

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